FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT safe drinking water act — south carolina state revolving fund

PROJECT: Easley Combined Utilities Distribution System Improvements (Pickens County)

This Department, under Section 48-5-40 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, has the authority and responsibility to conduct environmental reviews and approve preliminary engineering reports (PER) prepared for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program. Our review has determined that implementation of the plan identified below will not cause a significant environmental impact and the Department hereby issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI).

This FNSI precedes approval of the PER, entitled "Preliminary Engineering Report Distribution System Improvements," dated October 2004. The report recommends the installation of water lines. Easley Combined Utilities (ECU) will implement the plan. The following Environmental Assessment summarizes the environmental effects of the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Need for New Facilities: To meet current demands of the ECU water service area, system wide improvements are necessary. Water system improvements are essential to enhance the condition and reliability of the existing distribution system and to reduce the low-pressure areas in specific areas of the system. To increase system pressures, reduce pipe velocities and improve water quality, distribution improvements are required to loop the dead-end-lines.

Proposed Facilities: The attached figure shows the project location. Approximately 27,300 linear feet of 12-inch, 5,500 linear feet of 8-inch, and 6,650 linear feet of 6-inch ductile iron pipe will be installed.

The estimated total capital cost for the project is \$2,488,000.

Environmental Consequences: Minimal environmental impacts will result from the proposed construction. All construction will occur in current road right-of-way. There are no important wetlands, farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, floodplains, archaeological or historical sites, endangered/threatened species, or national natural landmarks located where they are likely to be impacted by implementation of the proposed project. Short-term, minor disturbances associated with construction—such as traffic interference, noise, dust, vegetation loss, erosion and sedimentation—will be minimized through the use of best-management construction practices.

Demographic analysis and project information indicate no significant impact on a minority or low-income population.

COMMENTS:

Comments in support or disagreement received within 30 days of the date of this FNSI will be evaluated before approval of the preliminary engineering report. If you wish to comment, either send an e-mail (pricedc@dhec.sc.gov) or write to:

David C. Price, Assistant to the Director Water Facilities Permitting Division Bureau of Water S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201

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